



## **WHEN?**

First settlement in Medicine Hat took place in 1883. In that year a small tent-town sprang up along the river flats. The settlement was prompted mainly by the arrival of work gangs laying steel for the C.P.R. It was in the same year that members of a railway gang accidentally struck natural gas while drilling a water well.

It was eight years later that the president of the railway company placed a drilling rig on loan to the town council so that they might probe the seams of coal which were believed to underlay the city. Gas was struck at 650 feet, right in the town limits. In 1903 the council passed a money by-law for the establishment of a gas distribution system. When completed it made this centre "The Gas City." The rest is history.

## **WHERE?**

Medicine Hat is in the extreme south-east corner of Alberta; 34 miles from the Saskatchewan border, 89 miles from Wildhorse, the closest port of entry to the United States. By highway, this city is 180 miles from Calgary, 301 from Regina, 660 from Winnipeg, 105 from Lethbridge.

## **HOW?**

The weather is one of the city's proudest boasts. Mild winters, sunny summers and 10 more frost-free days per year than any other prairie city, make this location unique on the western plains. The mean summer temperature is 62°F; the mean winter temperature is 27.5°F. Over a period of 55 years the mean yearly temperature has averaged 42°F. The average yearly rainfall is 11.44 inches, which added to 35.6 inches of snowfall, gives an average yearly precipitation of 15 inches.

Altitude 2181.

The warm climate and the rich soil permit residents to grow many sub-tropical plants: strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, apples, plums, canteloupe, watermelon, corn and tobacco, to name some of them. Many plants and flowers grown in Medicine Hat may be raised only in a few places in Canada, such as Vancouver Island or the Niagara Peninsula.

Chinook winds at frequent intervals each winter bring dramatic changes in temperature. Occasionally an increase of 60° will be recorded within one hour.

Over the last twenty years Medicine Hat has averaged 119 frost-free days and 270 days of sunshine per year.

# AT YOUR SERVICE!

## FIRE PROTECTION

1 station: 33 personnel.

## POLICE PROTECTION (City)

1 location: 31 members; 3 radio equipped cars.  
District Headquarters for R.C.M.P.

## CITY OF MEDICINE HAT OWNS AND OPERATES

Hydro power system, Water works system, Natural gas wells and production system, Library, Parks system, Hillside cemetery, Municipal hospital, Sewage disposal plant, Asphalt plant, Arena Gardens, Athletic parks.

## MUNICIPAL MAGIC

### 1. Natural Gas:

The complete ownership by the City of Medicine Hat of all utilities is the magic formula to this city's amazingly low mill rate. Natural Gas is the basis on which this fortunate position is built.

### 2. Water:

In 1959, an aquifer was discovered within the city limits at Police Point, the capacity of which is 10 million gallons per day. This water has a range in temperature from 55° during December to 40° during May and June. It is already being used by one of our larger plants and is available to industry at an estimated cost at the plant at 3 to 7c per thousand gallons, depending on plant location, volume of water and depreciation write-off.

## WHAT WE HAVE

### LAND AND BUILDING ASSESSMENT

1961 ..... \$28,948,940

### BUSINESS ASSESSMENT TAX

is based on a levy of 10% of the rental value of each property. (Minimum, \$18.00).

### CONSTRUCTION—BUILDING PERMITS

1955	.....	*22,396,410.00
1956	.....	4,476,560.00
1957	.....	3,691,170.00
1959	.....	7,560,970.00
1960	.....	4,960,859.00

\* This figure includes buildings for a chemical plant, a general hospital and nurses residence.

# WHAT WE'RE DOING

## BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED FOR 1960

Type	Number of Permits	Dollar Value
Dwellings .....	150	\$1,726,714
Buildings .....	45	2,957,050
Alterations & Repairs - houses	117	92,835
Alterations & Repairs - buildings	29	100,790
Garages .....	138	80,300
Misc. .....	8	3,170
	487	\$4,960,859

## HOW WE DO IT

	Electric Power Consumption	Natural Gas Consumption
1956 .....	42,351,236	7,145,480 MCF
1957 .....	61,652,093	6,336,695 MCF
1958 .....	68,455,375	6,521,700 MCF
1959 .....	76,035,254	7,572,214 MCF
1960 .....	86,170,531	7,822,198 MCF

## POWER RATES

RESIDENTIAL: General light and single phase appliances:

First 30 KWH .....	6c per KWH
Remainder .....	1½c per KWH

COMMERCIAL POWER: Service at 230 volts for three phase installations of not less than 5 HP of rated capacity.

DEMAND CHARGE: per HP connected or KVA measured \$1.00 plus an

ENERGY CHARGE: first 100 KWH used per month per HP or KVA 1½c per KWH. Remainder 1c per KWH.

CONTRACT PRIMARY POWER: (on five year contract only) for primary power users who are within reach of the distribution lines, and who use service at 4,000 volts for power service to three phase motors of not less than 100 HP or 75 KVA in rated capacity and not use less than 10,000 KWH per month.

Demand Charge: ..... \$1.00 per KVA plus an

Energy charge:

First 100 KWH used per KVA of monthly demand .....	3/4c per KWH
Remainder .....	1/2c per KWH

Other special rates are available for farm use, for stores, and for users requiring the 13,800 volt service.

The city power plant generates 42,000 KWH and is interconnected with the Calgary Power System.

## NATURAL GAS RATES

Residential: first 75 MCF per month .....	30c
next 125 .....	24c
next 100 .....	22c
all over 300 .....	18c
Minimum bill \$1.00.	

## COMBINED HEATING AND INDUSTRIAL PROCESS:

first 100 MCF per month . . . . .	19 c
next 400 MCF per month . . . . .	16½c
all over 500 MCF per month . . . . .	15½c

COMMERCIAL: for power and process, and wholesale contract customers:

Demand Charges: \$1.00 per 100 MCF per month, plus,	
Fuel rate: up to 750 MCF . . . . .	14 c per M
up to 2,000 . . . . .	13.5c
up to 5,000 . . . . .	11.5c
up to 15,000 . . . . .	10.5c
up to 25,000 . . . . .	10 c
over 25,000 . . . . .	9 c

There are no meter rentals.

The natural gas is of the dry variety, and is high in quality. It is composed of 99.47% methane with 980 BTU's per cubic foot.

## WATER RATES

DOMESTIC RATE: \$1.75 rate for a 5-room house. (15c each additional room).

No meters.

### COMMERCIAL:

1,000- 6,000	25c per thousand gals. (Min. \$1.50/mo.)
6,000-10,000	24c per thousand gals. (Min. \$1.68/mo.)
10,000-25,000	23c per thousand gals. (Min. \$2.53/mo.)
25,000-45,000	22c per thousand gals. (Min. \$5.94/mo.)

Other rates available for commercial users of 45,000 (thousand) gallons per month to a million-thousand or more. Meter rentals are in accordance with size of pipe, ranging from 15c per month for a ½" pipe, to \$5.00 per month for the 6" size.

The water is supplied from the South Saskatchewan River and the supply is abundant. At the site of the city the river is approximately 900 feet in width. The water is softer than in most other centres in Alberta, in July of 1955 the hardness was recorded as 140 parts of hardness per million. (See also under "Municipal Magic".)

## AND WHEN IT'S TIME TO RELAX . . .

### RECREATION FACILITIES:

PARKS: (City) Riverside, Central, Armouries, Hargrave.  
(Service Club Parks) Lions, Kinsmen.

GOLF: Medicine Hat, (watered).  
Connaught, (watered).

BOWLING: (Lawn) Legion, Medicine Hat.

SWIMMING: Rotary Pool, Robertson Pool, Riverside Pool.

### BOATING AND FISHING:

Elkwater Lake - 40 miles - Perch and Pike.

Cavan Lake - 14 miles - Trout.

Newell Lake - 65 miles - Pike and Whitefish.

Grassy Lake - 60 miles - Trout.

Twin Lakes - 50 miles - Trout.

Rattlesnake Coulee - 14 miles - Trout.

**SHOOTING:** Excellent hunting for duck, pheasant, partridge, geese.

**SKATING:** Arena Hockey Rink (Artificial Ice).

Outdoor rinks - 17 (city operated).

**CURLING:** New rink - 8 sheets - artificial ice.

**INDOOR BOWLING:** Two parlors.

**DANCING:** Five Halls.

## **ALSO IN THE HAT**

**MEDICINE HAT EXHIBITION & STAMPEDE:** Annual 3 Day event.

**ATHLETIC PARK:** Baseball, Softball (lighted).

**MUSEUM:** Relics of early days, operated by Oldtimers Assoc.

**LIBRARY:** City operated.

**THEATRES:** Three theatres; one drive in theatre.

**GENERAL HOSPITAL:** (250 beds) and Nurses Home.

**OLD FOLKS HOME:** 3.

## **THE HATTERS AT HOME**

Population, 1961 .....	24,015
Number of Families .....	7,000
School population .....	5,375
1960 Births 846, marriages 258, deaths 294.	
Home ownership .....	73%
Number of telephones .....	9,430
Number of Automobiles (city and district) .....	7,150
Trucks (city and district) .....	3,140

## **THE HATTERS AT SCHOOL**

1 Composite high school .....	capacity	900
1 Junior high school .....	capacity	700
11 Elementary schools .....	capacity	3,000
1 Separate high school .....	capacity	150
4 Separate elementary schools .....	capacity	850
1 Business college .....		
1 Religious college .....		

## WHERE WE BUY

### Firms paying business taxes (city) 750

Major Department stores: Eaton's, Simpsons-Sears, Macleod's.  
Major Variety stores: Woolworth's, Kresges.

Major Food chains, Safeway (3), Alberta Co-op, I.G.A.  
Major drug chain's Tamblyn's.

Number of food stores including Confectionaries	55
Number of drug stores	9
Ladies' Wear	14
Men's Wear	7
Shoe stores	7
Appliance and Furniture	13
Hardware	6
Jewellers	7
Lumber Yards	6

### AUTOMOTIVE DEALERS:

General Motors	2
Ford	2
Chrysler	1
American Motors	1
Austin	1
Volkswagen	1
Studebaker	1
Morris	1
DKW.	1
Service Stations	52

**WHOLESALE OUTLETS:** Boyd Wholesale, National Fruit, Dominion Fruit, MacDonald's Consolidated, Horne and Pitfield, The Black Hardware, Taylor Pearson and Carson, Motor Car Supply, Hutton Electric, Mek Wholesale, Shamrock Bottling Works, Superior Beverages.

## WHAT WE MAKE

### CLAY WORKS:

**Alberta Clay Products Ltd.**, vitrified sewer pipe, flue lining.  
**Hycroft China Ltd.**, earthenware dishes, fancy wares, semi-porcelain decorated dinnerware.

**National Porcelain Ltd.**, porcelain insulators.

**Medicine Hat Brick and Tile Company, Limited**, (2 plants) brick, building tile, sewer pipe, and vitrified flue lining.

**Kimmit Concrete Ltd.**, concrete blocks.

\***Redcliff Premier Brick Co.**, brick.

\***Redcliff Pressed Brick Co.**, brick

\***Perry Brick and Tile Co. Ltd.**, brick and tile.

\***Alberta Potteries Ltd.**, earthenware.

**Sunburst Ceramics**, earthenware pottery.

### GLASS FACTORIES:

\***Dominion Glass Co. Ltd.**, wide range of glass products.

**Altaglass**, fancy glass ornaments.

\* located at Redcliff, 3 miles from Medicine Hat.

### ELECTRICAL:

**Wilson Lighting & Display Co. Ltd.**, Lighting Fixtures.

### RUBBER:

**Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. of Canada Ltd.**, automobile tires.

## FLOUR MILLS:

**Maple Leaf Mills Limited**, Flour, cereals, mixes.

**Ogilvie Flour Mills Co. Ltd.** (2 plants), Flour, cereals, feeds.

These mills have a daily capacity of 6,200 barrels. Annually they process over 5,000,000 bushels of wheat.

**Alberta Linseed Oil Co. Ltd.**, linseed oil, oil cake, and meal.

**GREENHOUSES:** 16, including 2nd largest in Canada, total acreage under glass, 23. Flowers and spring hothouse vegetables are supplied annually to markets from Fort William to Vancouver.

## CHEMICALS:

**Northwest Nitro-Chemicals Ltd.**, a new plant costing \$22,000,000 was completed in the fall of 1956. This plant produces nitro-chemical fertilizer, utilizing natural gas as a principal raw material.

**Gower Products Ltd.**, Coloured Asphalt Roofing.

## METAL WORKS:

**T. McAvity and Son Ltd.**, iron foundry and valve fittings.

**Success Automatic Land Leveller Co.**, irrigation implements.

**S. F. Scott Manufacturing Co.**, ornamental ironwork.

**Medicine Hat Iron Works.**

**Wittke Iron Works**, ornamental iron works.

There are other small ceramic, glass and woodworking plants.

## WHERE WE WORK

	Employees
Garages	240
Chemicals	330
Clay and Glass	950
Construction	1,500
Motor Transport	120
Wholesale	115
Retail	450
Banks	120
Restaurants	130
Railway	650
Service	275
Dairy	65
Others	2,550

## OTHER FACTS AND FIGURES

**BANKS:** Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (3 br.), Bank of Montreal (2 br.), Bank of Nova Scotia, Provincial Treasury Branch, Royal Bank of Canada (2 br.), Toronto-Dominion Bank.

**PROFESSIONAL:** Barristers and Solicitors, 13; Accountants, 2 firms; Architects, 3 firms; Physicians and Surgeons, 30; Dentists, 9; Chiropractors, 3; Optometrists, 3.

### RADIO STATION:

CHAT owned by Monarch Broadcasting Co. Ltd.

1270 Kilocycles 1,000 watts. C.B.C. Dominion Network affiliate.

### DAILY NEWSPAPER:

The Medicine Hat News, a division of the Southam Co.

### TELEVISION:

CHAT-TV owned by Monarch Broadcasting Co. Ltd., Channel 6 and Satellite - Channel 4.

Total Retail Sales, 1959 (Est.) . . . . .	\$30,000,000.00
Retail Salaries and Wages, 1959 (Est.) . . . .	4,016,000.00
Total Manufacturing Production, 1959 . . . . .	36,500,000.00
Industrial Salaries and Wages . . . . .	7,300,000.00
Average Weekly Wage . . . . .	\$70.00
Average Income per Household . . . . .	\$5,745.00

### WHAT'S NEW!

Alberta Western Beef Co. Ltd. . . . . \$1,800,000  
New packing plant opening fall 1961.

Canadian Johns-Manville Co. . . . . \$1 - 9,500,000  
Property purchased for warehouse and factory.

**INDUSTRIAL SITES:** Industrial sites are still available, both for heavy and light industry, with or without trackage.

### HOW WE COME AND GO

**BY RAIL:** Medicine Hat is an important Divisional headquarters of the main line of the C.P.R. and is the originating point of the Crows' Nest Pass-Vancouver line of the same railway. Rail sub-divisions operated out of Medicine Hat division include: Cassils-Scandia, Bassano-Irricana, Langdon-Drumheller, Rosemary, Bassano-Empress, Burstall, Pennant and Hatton. The rail network radiating from Medicine Hat gives coverage to all Southern Alberta and South-Western Saskatchewan, and comprises, by mileage, the largest division of the C.P.R.

**BY AIR:** Trans-Canada Airlines operate one east-bound and one west-bound flight out of this city each day. Air travellers from this City connect with trans-continental flights at Calgary and Regina.

**BY BUS:** Western Canada Greyhound services this city with trans-continental service. A smaller bus company operates a service between Medicine Hat and the adjoining communities of Redcliff and Ralston. The Medicine Hat Transit Co. serves the city.

**BY HIGHWAY:** Medicine Hat is located on the Trans-Canada Highway, and is the junction of that route with highway No. 3, which goes via Lethbridge and the Crows' Nest Pass to Vancouver; both routes are hard surfaced. Highway No. 48 goes from Medicine Hat to Havre, Montana, via the port-of-entry, Wildhorse. There is a network of Local Improvement District and Municipal roads connecting this city with the ranching and farming district of this complete area.

There are approximately twelve transport firms serving Medicine Hat on either an inter-city or inter-provincial basis and there are many more providing service to adjacent towns and villages.

## WHERE TO STAY

### HOTELS:

	With Bath	Total Rooms
Assiniboia	100	100
Cecil	12	48
Cosmopolitan	20	50
Corona	18	76
Park Lane	50	50
Royal		42

366

### MOTELS:

	With Kitchens	Total Units
Brookwood	3	11
Brookwood Campsite and Trailer Court		
Casa Linda	8	8
Cloverleaf	6	18
DeLuxe	10	14
El Bronco	3	7
Frontier	9	23
Hat	8	13
Hill-Top	6	16
Hi-Way	7	8
Michael's	11	11
Prairie Schooner	8	8
Ranchmen	1	15
Rancho		8
Riverside	9	9
Satellite		24
Shannon	8	14
Trans-Canada	6	7
Trucker's Dormitory — Husky Servicentre.		

214

## **WHERE WE PRAY**

### **CHURCHES**

Protestant: 34; Catholic: 2; Jewish: 1.

## **OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS**

. . . Surrounded by some of the largest ranches in the British Empire, Medicine Hat is the service and supply depot for the livestock industry of South-Eastern Alberta and South-Western Saskatchewan. Two hundred and fifty thousand cattle roam the lush pasture land of this area, and each year thirty thousand head of choice beef cattle are marketed.

The area devoted to farming is extensive, with grain growing the predominant activity. Seeded acreage averages 550,000 and in the past three years, the annual yield has averaged 12,000,000 bushels. This grain is invariably No. 1 grade and quality . . .

In the Medicine Hat district two irrigation systems, now rapidly drawing to completion, will ensure the Western portion of the farming territory, an adequate supply of moisture. With irrigation, farmers will turn more and more to field and row crops, and will raise peas, corn, potatoes, onions, tomatoes, sugar beets, and other crops that do not normally survive within the limits of natural precipitation. The St. Mary-Milk River development will irrigate approximately 100,000 square miles to the South West, while a similar number of acres will eventually be opened up for irrigation farming in the North West area, when the Bow River development, now in the course of construction is completed.

## **OUR NEIGHBORING SCIENTISTS**

Located at Suffield, thirty miles West, is an important Experimental Station, founded during the last war, and now a permanent operation covering 700,000 acres. It is operated as a joint project of the Canadian and British Governments and employs approximately 500 personnel on a year-round basis. Married employees enjoy fully modern homes erected a short distance from the Experimental Station, in an area known as Ralston Village. These highly trained scientists are drawn from all parts of Canada and the United Kingdom.

Compiled by

The Medicine Hat Chamber of Commerce  
1962

# **THEY SAID IT! ... AND WE'RE GLAD!!**

## **Rudyard Kipling**

"Medicine Hat — the city that was born lucky" . . .

"The city with all hell (natural gas) for a basement."

## **Edward, Prince of Wales**

"A lovely spot . . ."

## **John Fisher —Noted Radio Commentator**

"Canada's Prairie Pittsburg."

## **His Excellency Gov.-Gen. Vincent Massey**

"A friendly, busy place."

## **Lady Baden-Powell —Chief Girl Guide**

"A fine place to raise children."

